

## Message Text

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AF/W-MR WYGANT

----- 116824

R 212131Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106228

CONAKRY COMMENT REQUESTED RE PARA 3

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 2027 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS  
BELGRADE BONN DAKAR DAR ES SALAAM KINSHASA LONDON LOURENCO  
MARQUES LUANDA LUSAKA MADRID MOCOW PRETORIS PARIS ROME  
NATO USUN CINCLANT USCINCEUR 21 MAY

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL CALL ON FOREIGN  
MINISTER, MAY 20

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES GAVE ASSURANCES  
PORTUGAL NOT HEADING TOWARD COMMUNISM DESPITE  
DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS AND INTENTIONS ESTABLISH  
RELATIONS WITH EASTERN COUNTRIES INCLUDING USSR,  
CHINA AND YUGOSLAVIA. HIS MAJOR EFFORTS CURRENTLY  
DIRECTED TOWARD TALKS WITH PAIGC FROM WHICH IT APPEARS  
PORTUGAL HOPES EMERGE WITH DEAL FOR RETENTION OF  
CAPE VERDES IN EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS LEADING TO  
GUINEA BISSAU INDEPENDENCE. SOARES MAJOR PRE-  
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OCCUPATION IS FORTHCOMING OAU MEETING JUNE 12 FROM

WHICH HE HOPES AFRICAN POSITION OF PATIENCE ON  
PORTUGUESE AFRICAN ISSUES WILL EMERGE. HE HOPES U.S.  
WILL EXERT SOME INFLUENCE TO BRING ABOUT SUCH A  
RESULT. END SUMMARY

1. DURING FIFTY MINUTE INITIAL CALL BY AMBASSADOR  
ON FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES, THE LATTER PROVIDED  
LENGTHY DIALOGUE CONCERNING THE EVILS OF THE LAST  
PORTUGUESE REGIME AND DWELLING AT LENGTH ON HIS OWN  
HISTORY OF OPPOSITION TO FASCISM. THE MAIN POINT OF  
THIS PRESENTATION APPEARED TO BE TO PROVIDE RE-  
ASSURANCE THAT THE NEW PORTUGAL WOULD STAY FIRMLY  
WITHIN THE WESTERN DEMOCRATIC CAMP. SOARES STATED,  
FOR EXAMPLE, THAT HAVING BATTLED FOR SO LONG AGAINST  
A DICTATORSHIP OF THE RIGHT HE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT  
BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANYTHING THAT WOULD PRODUCE A  
DICTATORSHIP OF THE LEFT IN PORTUGAL. HE NOTED THAT  
THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION IS TO ALLOW ALL POLITICAL  
ELEMENTS TO BE HEARD AND PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL  
PROCESS. HE ALSO FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR PORTUGAL  
TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE EAST,  
INCLUDING THE USSR, THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND,  
NOTABLY, YUGOSLAVIA, SINCE YUGOSLAVIA WOULD BE IN  
A POSITION TO ASSIST PORTUGAL IN ITS EFFORTS TO BUILD  
RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD. MOVES OF THIS NATURE,  
HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A TURN TO THE  
FAR LEFT BUT MERELY AS NORMALIZING PORTUGAL'S INTER-  
NATIONAL POSITION.

2. DISCUSSING PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN PROBLEMS, SOARES  
FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON PORTUGUESE GUINEA AND EX-  
PRESSED HIS HOPE THAT A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES  
WOULD COME OUT OF THE MEETING HE IS HAVING WITH THE  
PAIGC IN LONDON ON MAY 25. IN HIS DISCUSSIONS  
IN DAKAR WITH ARISTIDES PEREIRA, ONE SPECIFIC  
PROBLEM AREA THAT WAS IDENTIFIED AND WHICH WILL REQUIRE  
DELICATE NEGOTATION IS THE STATUS OF THE  
AFRICANS WHO HAVE BEEN FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF  
PORTUGAL. REFERRING TO THE DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE  
PAIGC BETWEEN THE CAPE VERDIANS AND THE GUINEANS,  
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HE NOTED THAT THIS SPLIT WAS SIGNIFICANT AND THAT  
IT VERY PROBABLY PROVIDED THE EXPLANATION FOR THE  
ASSASSINATION OF ALMICAR CALBRAL. IN THIS  
CONNECTION, HE STRESSED THAT PEREIRA HAD SPOKEN  
TO HIM ONLY OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND NEVER MENTIONED  
THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS (COMMENT: WE TAKE THIS  
AS A SUGGESTION THAT THE PORTUGUESE IN THE  
NEGOTATIONS WILL SEEK TO RETAIN THE CAPE VERDE

ISLANDS IN EXCHANGE FOR A DEAL ON GUINEA-BISSAU).

3. SOARES REVEALED THAT HE UNDER IMPRESSION US HAD TAKEN STEP TANTAMOUNT TO RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU THROUGH RECEPTION OF LUIS CABRAL BY US AMBASSADOR IN CONAKRY. I DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH EVENT, ADVISING THAT THERE HAD BEEN LOWER-LEVEL EMBASSY CONAKRY CONTACTS WITH PAIGC REPS, BUT NOT BY AMBASSADOR. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT US HAD CAST ONLY NEGATIVE VOTE AGAINST GUINEA-BISSAU ADMISSION TO WHA, OF WHICH SOARES OBVIOUSLY UNAWARE AND WHICH SEEMED SATISFY HIM ON THIS SCORE.

4. SOARES STATED THAT IT WAS PORTUGAL'S INTENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES, MENTIONING PARTICULARLY ALGERIA. THE PORTUGUESE PREOCCUPATION AT THE MOMENT IS THE FORTH-COMING OAU MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 12. THEY ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE AFRICAN STATES WILL BE WILLING AT THAT MEETING TO DISPLAY A DEGREE OF PATIENCE WITH PORTUGAL AS IT PURSUES ITS NEW POLICY OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES. IN RELATION TO BOTH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY THE HOPED-FOR AFRICAN ATTITUDE AT THE OAU MEETING, HE INDICATED THAT PORTUGAL WOULD BE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF ANY ASSISTANCE THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROVIDE. I INDICATED THAT THE U.S. VIEWED THE PRESENT EFFORTS OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WITH SYMPATHY AND INDICATED THAT WE WOULD WANT TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. I ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE DEGREE TO WHICH WE COULD BE HELPFUL WITH AFRICAN STATES MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT REDUCED BY OUR PAST HISTORY OF DEFENDING PORTUGAL ON THE INTERNATIONAL

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SCENE.

5. IN A MORE GENERALIZED CONTEXT, SOARES INDICATED THAT PORTUGAL WOULD BE LOOKING TO THE UNITED STATES FOR SUPPORT IN A WIDE VARIETY OF FIELDS INCLUDING ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, SOCIAL, AND MILITARY. I LIMITED MYSELF TO ASSURING HIM THAT WE WOULD BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE AND PLACING MYSELF AT HIS DISPOSITION SHOULD HE CARE TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS FURTHER.

6. NO MENTION MADE ON EITHER SIDE OF SOARES' URGENT DESIRE TO MEET SECRETARY KISSINGER. NO MENTION MADE IN EITHER SOARES MEETING OR PRIOR SPINOLA MEETING OF LAJES NEGOTIATIONS. SCOTT UNQUOTE RUSH

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